

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Reporting Structural Fumigations using Methyl Bromide and Sulfuryl Fluoride

Fumigants, such as methyl bromide and sulfuryl fluoride (Vikane®), are restricted use pesticides registered for a variety of crops and sites. They are highly toxic and, unless handled carefully, can be extremely dangerous to humans. Many fruits, vegetables, and forest products imported into the United States are fumigated, primarily with methyl bromide, to ensure they are free of insects and disease. These fumigations help prevent non-native pest organisms from infesting our crop and forest lands.

In certain parts of the country, buildings are routinely fumigated to eliminate infestations of wood-destroying insects such as drywood termites or structure-infesting beetles. In Washington this practice is limited, but it may occur with some frequency for other pests, e.g., carpenter ants in homes with cathedral ceilings. This is a legal, albeit questionable, use of a fumigant. Other available methods may be just as effective.

Methyl bromide use in most countries is due to be phased out by 2001. This gas has been shown to deplete the ozone layer surrounding the earth, reducing its effectiveness in protecting the planet from harmful ultraviolet radiation. Specialists at the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and Washington State University (WSU) are interested in documenting fumigant use patterns and the impact that restriction of methyl bromide uses may have on the structural pest control industry.

Unfortunately, all structural fumigations have not been conducted safely. A recent incident in the Seattle area resulted in two people requiring medical attention from exposure to methyl bromide. This fumigation was conducted in an unsafe manner and the WSDA is determined that this will not reoccur. Human health and safety is of paramount importance to us.

Distributors of methyl bromide and sulfuryl fluoride have been issued guidelines to report fumigant sales to the WSDA. These will remain in effect until further notice.

All residential and commercial structural fumigations (including tent fumigations for objects within an occupied building) must be reported to the WSDA no later than 48 hours after the fumigation ends. This requirement begins January 1, 1998 and continues until further notice. If wood-destroying organisms (WDOs) are the target of any fumigation, then a complete WDO Inspection Report must be submitted along with your records. See WAC 16-228-400 through 16-228-430 for details on completing WDO reports. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the issuance of a Notice of Correction, fines, or license suspension. *Please note that this request does not include stored grain, soil, greenhouse, shipboard, or containerized fumigations. We are primarily interested in structural fumigations for WDOs or similar nuisance pests.*

When reporting fumigations to the WSDA, use the following format or a form found in the General Pesticide Rules, WAC 16-228-190. Print or type in the necessary information. Your

records must be clear, so we are requesting that they be sent either by U.S. mail or by email. Faxes will be accepted only if they are legible.

Structural Fumigation Record			
Company Name _____		Commercial Applicator Name / # _____	
Company Address _____		Telephone # _____	
Commercial Operator(s) / # _____			
Date of Fumigation _____		Site Fumigated _____	
Client Name _____			
Client Address _____		Telephone # _____	
Pest(s) Treated _____			
How did you determine if the infestation was active?			
Product Used _____		EPA # _____	Amount Used _____
Dosage Calculations (volume, dosage rate, temperature):			
Gas Detector Used _____	Date _____	Time _____	PPM _____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Describe procedures used to secure the site:			

Send these records no later than 48 hours after the fumigation is completed to:

Daniel A. Suomi / WSDA
PO Box 42589
Olympia, WA 98504-2589
Email - dsuomi@agr.wa.gov

If you have questions, contact Dr. Suomi at 360.902.2044.

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